

threats to our European allies—and our military installation in Europe—is Russia's corner on natural gas and oil. Putin constantly threatens to use these resources as means to exercise political and economic control on those who heavily rely on Russian fuels as their primary source of energy.

It is for these reasons that I was proud to join my friend and colleague from South Carolina, Representative JOE WILSON, in shining a light on this threat in the House Armed Services Committee report to accompany the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act.

Just as we focus on the risk to our forward-based troops, aircraft and ships, we must not overlook the risk to the installations from which they operate. The energy we rely on to power these facilities supports our troops, their families, and their vital mission.

As a matter of strategy, our military installations overseas require secure and reliable sources of energy. Today in Europe—particularly in Germany—our military facilities receive furnished heat and other utilities from commercial or private power stations. In many cases, these energy facilities are fueled by German natural gas distribution systems which are heavily supplied with natural gas from the Russian Federation.

Our growing exposure to Russia's ability to disrupt our energy supply lines is clearly seen in our network of military installations in Germany. I wish to call attention to one such facility: the U.S. Army's future medical complex at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, nearby Ramstein Air Base where I was the installation commander. At an authorized cost of nearly \$1 billion, this vital new facility will replace the Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center and serve the combat needs and family requirements of military personnel on three continents.

Mr. Speaker, I am gravely concerned that our current energy supply strategy will actually increase our exposure to harmful Russian influence over time. Under no circumstances should we construct and operate critical military installations overseas where the only source of energy comes from Russia. We must take immediate and deliberate steps to adopt a strategy of energy resilience through mixed-fuel diversification such that not one single source—such as Russian Federation gas—should serve as a primary supply of energy.

It would be financially irresponsible and strategically reckless to appropriate nearly \$1 billion for a state-of-the-art military medical center to serve our troops and families overseas, only to have the design of the new facility compromise the very reason it exists by relying on the Russian Federation to supply natural gas as the primary fuel source. There are local mixed-fuel energy supply options readily available and it would be inexcusable not to make them part of the design of this project. This is good strategy, good economics and just plain common sense.

We simply cannot allow ourselves to be put in a situation where Russia has the ability to cut off energy to our forward bases, especially when we could have averted this tragic vulnerability ahead of time.

The seriousness of the Russian energy threat to our overseas military installations is addressed in the 2018 House Armed Services NDAA report which directs the Secretary of Defense to make a comprehensive evaluation

of these risks and report his findings and recommendations. I am pleased to see my colleagues in the House Appropriations Committee also took up this issue with similar language in the Military Construction Appropriations and Defense Appropriations bills that passed the House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House and Senate—and especially all Members of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees—to join me in exercising aggressive oversight of this real and serious threat to our national security.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted YES on Roll Call Vote 433 and would like to have it reflected that I meant to vote no.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOUSING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2017

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing alongside Rep. DENNIS ROSS of Florida, the Housing Accountability Act of 2017 to hold property owners of low-income housing accountable for poor living conditions.

This legislation would require the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to survey tenants living in subsidized housing twice a year about property conditions and management performance and create new penalties for property owners who repeatedly fail the tenant surveys.

The Housing Accountability Act comes in the wake of recent local and federal investigations that found deplorable living conditions at several federally subsidized-housing properties owned by Global Ministries Foundation (GMF) in Memphis, Tennessee and Jacksonville, Florida.

For too long, property managers like Global Ministries have taken advantage of HUD's lack of effective oversight and over dependence on often unreliable third-party property inspections, and as a result continue to force our nation's most vulnerable to live in squalor with impunity.

This bill seeks to put an end to these malpractices, hold federally-subsidized property managers to account, and provide HUD the necessary authority and directive to ensure that public housing units are suitable homes for all families, children, and hardworking Americans.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan, bicameral legislation and do right by the American public.

RECOGNITION OF MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL GRAND REOPENING

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the grand reopening of the Minnesota State Capitol after nearly four years of renovation.

Designed by renowned architect Cass Gilbert and inspired by the 1893 Chicago World's Fair's White City, an Italian Renaissance city-sized exhibit, the Minnesota State Capitol was celebrated as one of America's finest state houses when it opened in 1905.

Now, after nearly 30 years of planning and study, this great building has been reborn through renovation, restoration, and enhancements, including technological improvements. The renovation extends the usable lifespan of the State Capitol by at least another century.

The amount of public space has doubled to nearly 40,000 square feet, brand new public meeting rooms line the halls, the public will have more access and seating in hearing rooms, and a new information center for students and educators will enrich school visits. In addition, the renovation has made the State Capitol more accessible to all Minnesotans, especially those with disabilities.

When the State Capitol open its doors to Minnesotans this summer, the citizens of my home state will be able tour expanded public spaces, marvel at restored art and craftsmanship, and more effectively participate in our legislative process.

Thank you to all the workers for the hours of planning, design, building, and polishing our State Capitol back to its original grandeur. Congratulations to everyone involved.

JOHN MILLER RETIRES FROM THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of John Miller, who will retire from his position as the U.S. Forest Service Public Affairs Officer for the San Bernardino National Forest on July 31, 2017.

My office has had the pleasure of working with John over the past four and a half years. On numerous occasions, John demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond to serve my constituents and forest visitors. He has repeatedly shown his dedication to the Forest Service's mission and has been instrumental in balancing multiple and sometimes competing uses of the most heavily urbanized forest in the nation.

In addition to his work as a public affairs officer, John was the Public Information Officer for a Federal Interagency Management Team and served on the U.S. Forest Service Honor Guard. John is a true professional in every sense of the word, and I wish him the best of luck as he embarks on a new chapter in his life.